

# The Day I Kissed An Older Man By Cher the Cherished

## Chapter 321 to 340

The Day I Kissed An Older Man By Cher the Cherished Chapter 321 to 340

### Chapter 321

“Shut up!

I’m driving, so now’s not the time to say anything that’ll anger me. Just wait quietly and I’ll explain everything to you later. Be a good girl and listen to me, okay?” said Jeremy in a stern but coaxing tone while keeping his eyes focused on the road ahead.

Corinne frowned

and obediently sank back into her seat. A multitude of feelings was roiling inside her as she silently stared out of the window at the passing scenery.

1/4

In the middle section of the Cross River Bridge, a black commercial sedan with double flashing lights was parked on the side of the road.

Jeremy drove past the car and pulled over. Corinne had no intention to get out of the car, but he still reached over to help her unbuckle her seat belt.

“What are you waiting for? Get out of the car now!”

She had no choice but to follow him out of the car.

Anya greeted them as soon as the two of them got out of the car. She coughed weakly twice before saying, “Jeremy, you’re here!”

Jeremy nodded at her. He then turned his attention to Lucas, who was standing by the car, and asked him, “What’s wrong with your car?”

Lucas patted the front bonnet and said, “The engine might be flooded with water. It stopped working after I drove over some

## Chapter 321

puddle.”

Jeremy tossed him the keys to his car. “Here, you can use my car to take your sister home first.”

Lucas caught the keys with one hand. His expression was

slightly stiff, but then he smiled. “Thank you for coming all the way out here to help us.”

Then, Lucas took a closer look at Corinne, who was standing quietly by the side. He had to admit he was rather impressed by how she managed to have Jeremy eating out of the palm of her hand. Jeremy would never have ignored Anya like that in the past.

“Jeremy, how are you going to get home, then? Why can’t you drive us home instead of giving us the car?” Anya asked anxiously.

“No can do. The two of us want to take a walk along the bridge, ” said Jeremy. He then patted Corinne pointedly on the head.

Corinne was speechless. ‘What the hell is he talking about? I for sure don’t want to take a walk along the bridge with him,’ she thought.

An imperceptible gloom flashed across her eyes after she looked at Corinne and then at Jeremy’s hand. However, she soon put on her a fake smile and said, “Jeremy, it can get quite windy up here, and Corinne might catch a cold. I think it’s best if we all leave together in the same car.”

Jeremy took off his coat and put it on Corinne. “It’s okay.

Someone will come to pick us up later. Didn’t you say you’re feeling unwell? Well, don’t just stand there and get in the car already. Your brother will send you home to rest.”

## Chapter 321

“But Jeremy...”

Jeremy completely ignored her this time. He turned sideways to look at Corinne. “Let’s go. We need to talk.”

He then put both of his hands on her shoulder and steered her toward the direction of the river.

Anya froze in place. She angrily gritted her teeth as she stared at the two retreating figures. Lucas’ car broke down because she deliberately tampered with it when he went down to buy some drinks for her.

She thought that Jeremy would definitely ask Corinne to get out of the car so that he could personally send Anya home first. She had been known to be weak and sickly, after all. She never imagined that he would actually choose to walk along the bridge with Corinne and leave her to Lucas’ care!

“Let’s go, Anya!” Lucas called out to her, snapping her out of her trance.

She nodded obediently, and the two of them walked over to where Jeremy’s sports car was parked. Sitting in the car, she still had not given up, so she sent him a message.

[Jeremy, I’m sorry to make you come all the way here. Did I make Corinne unhappy again? I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to. It’s just that I was feeling really sick just now. Can you please help me explain it to her? I’m really worried she might get angry at me again.]

Jeremy’s phone beeped twice.

Corinne glanced at the message notification on the screen and

Chapter 324

threw the phone to Jeremy.

“Mister, your precious Anya just texted you.”

Chapter 322

Jeremy did not even look at the message. He simply turned off the phone and put it in his pants pocket.

Corinne leaned on the steel railing by the side of the bridge

and stared into the distance. The wind from the river blew softly over her hair, making her look like an elegant and beautiful lady straight out of a classical painting.

The bridge was located opposite Yonder River's embankment, where one could see the most cutting-edge high-rise

buildings in the whole of New Capital City.

"Be careful. Make sure you don't fall off the bridge."

Jeremy grabbed her by the collar from behind as if he was picking up a kitten. In less than three seconds, he managed to ruin Corinne's beautiful image. Her feet were hanging off the ground, making her so uncomfortable that she thought she was going to choke to death.

'Oh, my god. He's so annoying. Why does he keep treating me like a kid who doesn't know anything?' thought Corinne.

"Let me go, Mister. I'm not so stupid as to fall off the bridge!" she said.

Jeremy carried her to a place further away from the railing before letting her go. Her feet finally touched the ground.

Then, he condescendingly looked down and scoffed at her. Are you sure you're not that stupid?"

"Of course!" exclaimed Corinne with a frown.

Chapter 322

2/3

"If you're not that stupid, why can't you see it?"

“See what?”

“Use that brain of yours and think for yourself,” he said fiercely.

Corinne was a little speechless. She did not want to continue the conversation, so she asked, “Mister, when are your men coming to pick us up?”

Jeremy shoved his hands into his pockets and stared into the distant river. “No one is coming to pick us up.”

‘What? I remember him telling Anya that someone will come to pick us up soon!’ thought Corinne.

She frowned and said, “What? No one’s coming to pick us up? Are you seriously suggesting we walk home like this?”

Jeremy narrowed his eyes and said, “Why not? I thought all you young people like to wander around aimlessly when dating each other.”

“You’re kidding, right? That’s so last century. No one does

that anymore! Why would we do that? Think about all the gas fumes we’ll breathe in,” Corinne complained with a disgusted expression on her face.

Jeremy was speechless.

Corinne was laughing at just how old-fashioned he was when she suddenly realized there was something off about what he said.

‘Wait a minute... Did he just use the word dating? Is he trying to imply that what we’re doing now is dating?’ Corinne

Chapter 322

3/3

wondered. She pondered over Jeremy's choice of wording, not entirely sure if she understood what he was trying to tell her.

Jeremy bent down slightly to accommodate their height difference and looked deeply into her eyes. "Then can you teach this old man what it is that young people nowadays do when they go on dates?"

Corinne snapped out of her trance. 'He's definitely being weird

Her lips began to twitch unnaturally. "Umm, the usual like eating out in a restaurant, drinking at a bar, watching a movie, going to an escape room, and the likes..."

Jeremy frowned slightly. Except for eating and drinking, everything else was a waste of time for a mature man like him.

"So you like doing those things, too?"

Corinne nodded and said, "I guess. I went to a few escape rooms with some classmates before and found it quite fun."

"Male or female classmates?" Jeremy asked with a frown.

Corinne felt a little guilty when he asked that. She thought this must be what it felt like to be interrogated by a parent after getting caught sneaking out at night. However, she suddenly reminded herself she was not a teenager anymore, so there was nothing to be scared about.

"Both! Can you please stop being so narrow-minded, Mister?" z

'What? Is she really calling me narrow-minded?' Jeremy's face darkened. He pinched the space between his eyebrows in a bid to tamp down his emotions.

"Corinne Carew, you..."

## Chapter 323

Suddenly, Corinne's stomach gave out an embarrassing growl -she was hungry.

Half of Jeremy's

anger vanished when he heard her stomach growling. He looked at her with his intense eyes and

patted her head. "Okay then, we can start with having a meal together. What do you want to eat?"

'Start with having a meal together? What does he mean?' Corinne wondered. Jeremy's words made her feel a little uncomfortable. 'Does he mean what I think he means? Should I ask him? No! I don't want him to think that I'm getting the wrong idea about the whole thing.'

Corinne rubbed her hungry stomach and looked away from him. "I'm okay with anything, but I'm too tired to walk anymore."

As soon as she finished speaking, Jeremy scooped her up and carried her in a horizontal position.

Corinne was stunned. She turned beet red. "Mister...what are you doing?"

Jeremy began to walk along the bridge with her in his arms. He looked down at her and said, "Didn't you say you're tired of walking?"

Corinne was nonplussed. "What I meant was you should call someone to come and pick us up quickly instead of carrying me like this!"

"What you ultimately want is to not walk, so what difference

Chapter 323

2/3

does it make **if I** carry you or **if a** car carries you?" said Jeremy without breaking his stride.

The corner of Corinne's mouth started twitching. What Jeremy said was irrefutable.

"No, Mister. I'm embarrassed by this. We're on the Yonder

Bridge, for god's sake. Every car passing by will think we're crazy. They might even post our pictures on the Internet. We'll have no choice but to hide under the rock should that happen."

"We're legally married, so there's nothing to be ashamed of."

"But don't you see how embarrassing this is for me?"

"Don't worry. Any videos or photos that have my face in them cannot be posted without my permission."

Corinne was speechless. 'The videos and photos are beside the point! Why can't he just see how embarrassing this is for me? People are definitely going to think we're crazy for doing this on the Yonder Bridge.'

She could not break free, and at the same time, she did not want to experience a social death, so she decided to bury her face in Jeremy's chest like an ostrich. Jeremy would be the only one being humiliated as long as she did not show her face.

After a while, Corinne sensed that the wind had died down considerably, so she turned her head and glanced around to discover that they were no longer on the bridge. She immediately sighed with relief.

"Thank you, Mister. You must be tired of carrying me, so why don't you let me down? I don't mind walking now," she said, hoping he would listen to her.

Jeremy leaned over and put her down safely. His eyes were

twinkling mischievously when

he said, "Just so you know, I didn't put you down 'cause I was tired of carrying you. In fact, you were as light as a feather."

Corinne simply rolled her eyes. "Yeah sure, that is if the feather weighs thirty-six kilograms."

Jeremy laughed softly and stroked her hair. "Oh, what am I going to do with you?"



Corinne was stunned and she turned beet red. 'He's such a flirt! Good thing I don't fall for this kind of thing. If not...'

She then looked around. "I don't think it'll be that easy to get a taxi here. There should be a subway station further up ahead. Let's go, Mister. We'll take the subway to the restaurant for dinner."

Jeremy was willing to do whatever she said, so the two of them made their way to the subway station.

Once there, they lined up to buy their tickets from the automatic ticket machine. Corinne was just about to buy tickets when Jeremy deftly pushed some buttons, and the machine instantly spat out a pair of Line 7 subway cards that would allow them to pass through the central business district.

Seeing this, Corinne could not help but recall the time when Jeremy took the subway with her because the traffic was too congested to drive, as well as how he had to call Tommy for help in buying the tickets.

"Mister, you seem to know your way around the subway lines now."

## Chapter 324

"I decided to learn a little bit about the subway lines after taking a ride with you last time."

Jeremy bent down and picked up the subway cards issued by the ticket machine. Then, he took Corinne's hand and led her to the turnstiles to swipe their cards before walking to the waiting area as if he had done the same thing a thousand times.

Corinne found it weird that he would want to learn about the subway lines that she missed out on the fact that Jeremy was holding her hand. "Why do you need to know about this kind of thing when you're always being chauffeured around? Don't you find it unnecessary?"

Jeremy glanced at her sideways and scoffed coldly, "Didn't someone last time say that I should learn to live life like the average person once in a while?"

Corinne was speechless. She remembered that she had indeed said that to him at the racecourse last time. At that time, she wanted to show Rosie that she had principles and was not with Jeremy for his money.

"I didn't mean anything by that. Did you really learn to take the subway like us average people just because I said that to you?"

"You mean I'm not an average folk?" Jeremy asked with one eyebrow raised.

Corinne pursed her mouth in disgust and replied, "Of course not. You're one of those evil capitalists."

Chapter 324

2/4

"Have I ever exploited you?" Jeremy asked with a laugh.

"Yes! I have given you three months of my precious time. Not to mention, you've caused me so many troubles from the very first day I met you," said Corinne confidently.

Jeremy stopped in his tracks and turned his head to look at her.

"I'm sorry."

His sudden sincere apology made Corinne feel very uncomfortable.

"Forget it. We're both responsible for the situation we're in now since you only started to exploit me after I kissed you. I'm fine as long as you don't exploit me anymore after the three months are up."

"Deal."

"Mister, do keep in mind that there's no postponement of ending this relationship once the three months are up," Corinne said with a frown.

Jeremy narrowed his eyes and looked deeply into her eyes. You sound like you're afraid I'll ask for a postponement."

Corinne nodded vigorously. "Of course! I don't want to be bound to you or be at your mercy forever. I really hope you'll keep your word and give me back my freedom as promised."

Jeremy's eyes darkened. "Corinne Carew, I'll let you go and give you back your freedom now."

Corinne's eyes lit up. "Really?"

"Yes, really."

## Chapter 324

"Wow! Thanks, Mister. I'll be leaving, then. Hope we never bump into each other again."

Corinne quickly shook off Jeremy's hand and walked away. However, Jeremy pulled her back by the arm before she could even take three steps.

"Did I say you can leave?" Jeremy asked coldly.

Corinne looked puzzled. "You just told me you're letting me go! How can you go back on your words so quickly?"

"I'm not going to force you to pretend to be my wife anymore, but I hope you'll at least consider becoming my real wife."

Corinne looked at Jeremy in astonishment. She could not help but wonder whether she heard wrong. 'He wants me to be his real wife? Wait a minute... Is he proposing to me?'

"Hello? Earth to Corinne?" Jeremy tapped her on the nose with his finger, wanting her to come out of her trance and put her focus back on him.

Corinne recovered from her shock but was still slightly in a

daze.

“Didn’t you just ask me why I learned how to take the subway? Well, I was scared that you, being the little rascal that you are, will abandon me in the subway station one day and that I won’t be able to chase after you on account of me not knowing how to buy the ticket.”

As he was speaking, he slid his hand to her wrist and then

interlocked his fingers with hers until he had her hand firmly clasped in his. It was as if he was very worried that she would suddenly run away.

Corinne was beginning to feel her resolve melting little by little. Jeremy’s every word and move made her more and more confused. She even looked behind and around her, checking to see if the elders from the Holden family had sent someone to spy on them. If not, why would Jeremy be acting like this?

Jeremy noticed her looking around and knew that her brain must be going into overdrive again.

## Chapter 325

Jeremy straightened Corinne’s face and continued to lead her to the platform so as not to miss the next train.

As they walked, Jeremy solemnly called her name, “Corinne Carew, let’s start over.”

Corinne tilted her head, raised her eyebrows, and looked at him incredulously. “How?”

“We’ll start by going on dates with each other. What do you say? Will you give this old man a chance?”

Corinne frowned and, giving it much thought, replied, “Mister, I don’t think we’re—”

She was cut off before she said the word ‘suitable’.

Jeremy did not let her finish her sentence. “Don’t be so fast to turn me down. Give me a chance to pursue you again. Don’t worry. From now on, I won’t force you to live my life.

I'll try to learn to

live the way you live too. You like to take the subway to go out. You like to eat street food. You like to go to escape rooms. You like to watch movies. All this I can go with you.

"But of course, I'll take you to the best restaurants in the city too so that you can enjoy the most luxurious life imaginable. I want to give you all the best in this world. As long as you want it and as long as I have it, I'll give anything to you."

No woman would be able to resist such an offer coming from a handsome man with a deep melodious voice.

Corinne's heart actually skipped a

beat, but the corners of her lips curled up with sarcasm. "Mister, you should be ashamed

## Chapter 325

of yourself. Didn't you say the same thing to Miss Anya **not** long ago?"

However, her words were drowned out by a howling sound the subway train had arrived. The subway train rushed past them before coming to a screeching halt.

Corinne was not sure whether Jeremy had heard what she said. He did not say anything back to her and just pulled her by the hand into the subway train.

It was rush hour, and a lot of people were taking the subway. There were no free seats, so they had no choice but to remain standing.

It was easy to spot Jeremy from the crowd since he was a good head taller than anyone there. Not to mention, he had a certain something about him that always made others see him as extraordinary. The other women in the carriage kept sneaking glances at him with starry eyes.

Corinne was forced to squeeze into his arms; there was not the slightest room for her to move around. Their bodies were so close that they could even feel each other's heartbeat.

Corinne felt so awkward that she started to wriggle away from Jeremy in a bid to keep some distance between them. However, the passengers standing next to her were all men, and Jeremy would never allow the love of his life to have any physical contact with them.

He wrapped his arms around her, pressed her tightly in his arms, and gently ordered, "Stay still. Don't move."

Corinne was not happy, but she quieted down after Jeremy put his chin on her head and started to explain in a low voice, "

2/3

## Chapter 325

There is nothing between me and Anya. I see her as my savior and nothing more. I told you that she once saved me, and because of that, she became weak and sickly. I owe her, **so** in some cases, I can't just ignore her."

It turned out that he had heard what she said before getting into the carriage.

"So you promised yourself to her, then?" Corinne asked pointedly.

Jeremy frowned. "You're talking nonsense again! She was only ten years old at that time. How was I supposed to promise myself to her?"

Corinne snorted coldly. "Well, nothing is stopping you from doing that now that she's all grown up."

Jeremy knew that she was just saying those things out of anger, and at the same time, he felt a little happy because the fact that she was angry meant that she cared about him after all. He could not help but smile after coming to this conclusion.

He lightly rubbed his chin against the top of her head. "Do you really want me to do that?"

“Be my guest. It has nothing to do with me anyways,” said Corinne unhappily.

“Well, how about I promise myself to you instead? I’m willing to give you my heart and my body if you’ll have it.”

## Chapter 326

In the

subway carriage, Corinne was so overwhelmed by Jeremy’s words that she was starting to feel dizzy. She started to blush crazily, fearing someone might have overheard their conversation even though there was no chance of that happening since the inside of the carriage was filled with a cacophony of other noises. Plus, Jeremy spoke so softly that she was sure that she was the only one who could hear it.

She did not look up at him, and she snorted lightly into his chest. “No thanks. It’s not like I ever saved you before.”

Jeremy hugged her tightly. “Who said you didn’t save me? You were the one who saved me on that rainy night. I knew it was you.”

Corinne’s brain froze. She still felt very embarrassed whenever someone mentioned that night.

“And you were the one who rushed over **to** save me when I was kidnapped, so we owe each other nothing, nor do you have to be responsible for any aftermath.”

Jeremy could not believe that Corinne would still vehemently push him away even after he confessed his feelings to her. Most of the time, he thought that she was a smart girl, but at times like this, she was so stupid that it made him want to strangle her.

“Are you stupid? I know you’re a good kid, so why do you insist on acting like a brat?”

Jeremy rubbed the back of her head sternly, then lectured softly, “You might be speaking about that incident calmly

now, but I know you struggled with yourself for a long time before making up your mind to save me. That night wasn't easy on you at all, and it was all my fault."

Corinne was stunned, and a snuffle escaped her nose. No one had ever taken her feelings so seriously before. Not only could Jeremy see through her and pinpoint the roller-coaster of emotions she was feeling then, but what was even more precious was that he did not mock her.

She had been bullied since childhood when she was at her most helpless and vulnerable. She was unable to fight back, and other people took pleasure in bullying and insulting her. No one cared about her feelings at all.

She could finally protect herself as she had grown up. Everyone around her thought that she was strong,

indestructible, and without a soft side to her. As a result, she often ignored her own feelings to the point she had

brainwashed herself into thinking that she was fearless and

had no weaknesses.

That was until Jeremy came along on a wrecking ball to tear down the walls she had built around herself.

Jeremy suddenly sighed heavily again and whispered, "It seems like it's not in the cards for me to be romantic. The sea of flowers I prepared for you was all for nothing. You left without even taking a second look. In the end, the words I wanted to say to you that day came out in a noisy and crowded environment exactly like the one we're in now."

Corinne looked up at him in surprise. "What? Did you just say that the sea of tulips in Lunar Century Manor was meant for me?"

Chapter 376



“Of course.” The way Jeremy was looking at her was as if he was asking for him to praise him.

Corinne thought it over and then frowned again. “Hmph, don’t lie to me! There’s no way those flowers were meant for me. Have you forgotten that day you named Princess An as the person to receive your public confession at the embankment of Yonder River?”

Jeremy looked at her deeply. He was not angry or unhappy at the wrongful accusation but instead explained to her very patiently, “I’ve been investigating this matter for the past two days to find the culprit who was doing all these things that would make you misunderstand me behind my back.”

Corinne blinked repeatedly, fearing that she had heard wrong.

Jeremy lowered his head, leaned close to her ear, and said seriously, “Little rascal, you should know that given my status, I can’t publicly declare my love to anyone, nor will I publicly declare my love to anyone. To declare my love publicly is to disclose my weakness, which will put my loved one in a dangerous situation where they may be kidnapped and used to blackmail me at any time. So, that kind of thing would never be my doing.”

Corinne suddenly realized that the last time she was

kidnapped, she was used by those kidnappers to blackmail him.

“I have now found out the truth about public confession. The name of the person the public confession was meant for is also nicknamed ‘An’. Her full name is Anna Fuller. Everything was just a coincidence and had nothing to do with me. If you don’t believe me, I can show the order slip she had made for the LED

advertising in Century Bank Tower.”

‘So that’s what happened,’ thought Corinne.

Jeremy's deep and seductive voice rushed into her ear again. Were you cursing me out when you were alone at the embankment that day?"

||

Corinne was embarrassed at first, but she nodded nonetheless.

She mistakenly thought that Jeremy had called her to the Lunar Century Manor that day because he wanted her to witness him declaring his love for Anya. If that were true, it would be totally wicked of him to do that. However, since the truth had come out, she felt a little guilty about the whole thing.

Jeremy knew what she was thinking. He stroked her hair helplessly and said, "Next time, if anything makes you unhappy, you should just come to me directly instead of jumping to a conclusion by yourself."

Corinne knew that she had wrongly blamed Jeremy, so she put down her pride and meekly said, "Got it."

Since they had cleared up the misunderstanding between them, Corinne finally stopped resisting him and seemed to have lowered her walls a little, which made Jeremy immensely

relieved.

On the day when the incident with the sea of tulips occurred, Corinne could not be contacted after she quietly left Lunar Century Manor. He searched all over the city for her that night. He did not have a clue as to where she could be. He could not get through to her on the phone as it was turned into the police station, and she did not go back to her mother's house

either.

As

a result, the fear of Corinne running away without him noticing one day never left him. J

Jeremy gently pressed the back of her head against himself, wishing he could fuse his body with hers so that she could never leave him.

After all, the crowded subway was not the best place to talk. As soon as they arrived at the station, Jeremy led Corinne off the subway. He was planning to take her to a high-end restaurant, but...

## Chapter 327

Corinne chose a nearby fast food restaurant instead because she was starving and wanted something she could instantly

eat.

Jeremy never liked fast food as he thought they were

unhealthy. However, he did not stop her from eating since it was more important to get some food into her stomach.

Corinne ordered a set meal and some individual items, whereas Jeremy did not order anything and simply paid the bill. They sat across each other, and while she was eating, Jeremy just stared at her adoringly.

Corinne had almost finished eating. She was sipping her Coke when she suddenly thought of something. "Mister, did you choose me to be your wife because you think that I'll know how to protect myself if I was ever kidnapped? Like you won't be so easily blackmailed if I can handle myself in front of the kidnappers?"

Jeremy hesitated slightly. He was quite surprised that she was able to figure that out herself. "Indeed. I didn't want to drag innocent people into my mess, and the woman I hired in

advance couldn't come because her flight was delayed due to bad weather. Then, you came along. A girl who's brave, smart, and knows how to fight which were all the qualities I was looking for. But don't worry, I'll make sure to keep you safe from now on."

Corinne was not worried at all. She was just asking for the fun

of it.

## Chapter 327

2/4

“You must be thirsty. After all, it’s rare to see you talk so much.” She held up the straw for him to take a sip of her Coke.

Jeremy was really flattered. It was rare for Corinne to personally feed him something, so he opened his mouth and took a sip of her Coke.

Corinne then took it back and continued to drink from the same straw as if she had done this a thousand times before.

Jeremy’s heart warmed up. He narrowed his eyes on her and asked, “So you’re okay with us sharing bodily fluids now?”

“Well, it’s not like we haven’t done more than that anyways,” Corinne said with a pout.

“Then would you be willing to give me a chance to start over with you?” asked Jeremy with a chuckle.

“We can have a trial period,” said Corinne with a raised eyebrow.

“A trial period?” asked Jeremy with a frown.

Corinne nodded and said, “The trial period will allow us to see if we’re really compatible with each other. If we are, then we can continue our relationship. If we’re not, then it’s best to end the relationship. Mister, you should know that some things are just easier said than done. We grew up in two different worlds, not to mention the large age gap between us, so I won’t be surprised if we’re not compatible. This way, there’ll be no hard feelings even if the relationship comes to an end.”

Jeremy was speechless. ‘She’s so hard to please!’

He grabbed her chin and asked, "Then am I allowed to kiss you

Chapter 327

during the trial period?"

Corinne's face flushed red. "Ahem! That'll depend on my mood."

"What about your mood now?"

"So—so."

"Why is that?"

Corinne scoffed. "Would you be in a good mood if moments ago you were handcuffed and taken to the police station?"

Jeremy's heart immediately went out to her. He grabbed her hand to check whether her hives had subsided and was

relieved to find that not only had they subsided but they left no mark on her.

Suddenly, Jeremy's phone rang. He glanced at the caller's

name—

it was Tommy. He answered the phone and listened for a few seconds. Then, his face darkened all of a sudden. "When did it happen?"

Vicky could tell something was wrong, and she observed him closely.

However, Jeremy got up and said to her, "I'm stepping out to take this call, but I'll be right back. Stay here, and take your time to finish your food."

"Okay." Corinne nodded obediently. She was very curious to know what had happened. 'Is Anya sick again?' she wondered.

Jeremy went outside and Corinne sipped her Coke lazily and stared out of the window. She was completely bored out of her mind.

At that moment, two diners holding their tray of food passed her by. They were discussing the latest news.

“I can’t believe how shameless that girl is! She’s young and healthy, but instead of holding down a respectable job, she’d team up with some old person to scam others.”

“I know, right? Isn’t she afraid of getting karma for scamming people?”

“Wait a minute. Look over there. Isn’t that her?”

“Hey, you’re right! It is her.”

“Everyone, look! The girl scammer who’s trending on the Internet is here!”

Corinne was immediately surrounded by a group of people before she even knew what was going on. They were all trying to take pictures of her with their phones.

## Chapter 328

Corinne frowned and calmly looked at the group of people surrounding her. She did not panic, even though she did not understand what was happening. “Why are you all taking pictures of me? Please delete them now. You have no right to take pictures of me.”

The group of people threw dirty glares at her.

“What do you know about rights?”

“How can she be so shameless? Look at the way she’s leisurely drinking her Coke after screwing others over.”

“She’s a bad seed, alright. She probably doesn’t even know what empathy means.”

"I agree. She's not fit to be called a human."

Corinne did not know what they were talking about. She wanted to let them have a taste of their own medicine, so she dug deep inside her pocket to look for her phone, only to remember that her phone was still with Jeremy.

She remained calm even without her phone. "People, have you mistaken me for someone? I'm neither an influencer nor a celebrity, so why are you taking pictures of me?" she said staidly.

"Nope, we're pretty sure we got the right person. You're

definitely the girl we're talking about. A young pretty girl who is out and about scamming other people."

'Scamming other people? When did I ever do such a thing?" thought Corinne.

Chapter 328

7213

"Look at how bewildered she is. She sure has honed her acting skill over the years."

"She should consider being an actress instead. Who knows, she might even win an Oscar."

Corinne became more and more confused. "I don't know any of you. Can someone please just explain to me why all of you are taking pictures of me?"

An indignant onlooker in the front row turned his phone screen toward her and said, "Find out for yourself. Can you honestly tell us that the young girl teaming up with the old man in this video scamming other people isn't you?"

There was a video playing on the onlooker's phone. The video showed the scene of her coming across a blind old man when she was leaving the embankment of Yonder River that night.

The blind old man was stuck on a part of the tactile paving

that was

blocked by a car. She went to help him out of the kindness of her heart, but the blind old man was so angry at how inconsiderate the driver of the car was that he did not

hesitate to smash up the car with his cane.

Then, the blind old man got into an argument with the driver who happened to be the purple-haired female influencer. Corinne could not stand it anymore, so she went to help the old man, but the purple-

haired female influencer deliberately pretended to be a victim. She live-streamed the whole thing and lied to everyone, saying that she was the victim.

Her stream did not go viral on the day it happened, but the video was released online after being heavily edited

to skew the context. It ended up being the blind old man deliberately

Chapter 328

3/3

crashing into the purple-

haired female influencer's car and asking for compensation with the help of Corinne.

Moreover, only the blind old man's face was blurred out in the video. The purple-

haired female influencer had no need to blur out her face because it was a live stream with her identity disclosed. However, only Corinne's face seemed to have been magnified to an ultra-clear close-

up so much that each and every one of her pores could be clearly seen. It was no wonder strangers could recognize her at a glance.

'Who edited and uploaded this video?' wondered Corinne. She remembered

Lucas confiscated the purple-

haired female influencer's phone so that he could use that to prove Corinne had indeed



been colluding with Chris. The phone was then turned into the police's possession after the case was closed.

'Was Lucas the one who edited and posted the video to slander me? Did he do it to make Anya feel better? If so, that's really despicable of him. Ha! I can't believe he'll do this to a person who has helped his grandfather. He's beyond ungrateful. The Rivera family is nothing but a bunch of hypocrites!' thought

Corinne.

Suddenly, a male onlooker picked up a cup of Coke and threw it at her.

"You shameless woman! How dare you pick on Xena? How dare you screw over my favorite influencer?"

Everyone clapped when the Coke splashed against Corinne's body.

"Yeah, how could you do that Xena? Don't you know that she's an inspiration to many? Because of what happened, she lost everything and was so traumatized that she said she's going to quit being an influencer!"

## Chapter 329

"Poor Xena. It's all your fault!"

"You'll get your karma, you evil woman!"

Corinne shook off her shock and took a deep breath. She patiently took out some tissue and wiped off the Coke dripping off her face. Then, she looked up at the group of people who had no idea just how far away from the truth they were. She kept telling herself to calm down and try not to fight back. She was just released from the police station, and she did not want to have to end up going back there because of a brawl.

'Xena must be the name of the purple-haired female influencer,' thought Vicky. D

However, the man who threw the cup of Coke at her was still angry at her. “Everyone, follow my lead and throw your Coke at this shameless woman. Let’s teach her a lesson to never mess with Xena!”

“Yeah! Her face makes me want to puke. I might as well not waste the Coke!”

“I’m not going to drink my Coke, too!”

“Let’s **all** throw it **at** her!”

Everyone picked up their Coke and raised them high. Seeing this, Corinne immediately tried to hide.

“Shame on all of you!” shouted a man sharply, and the temperature in the fast-food restaurant immediately dropped

to zero.

Everyone turned around and saw a tall, handsome man with a darkened face and extraordinary temperament standing near the entrance,

‘Oh, my god. He’s drop-dead gorgeous!’ All the women started to swoon.

“Shame on all of you for ganging up on a poor, helpless girl, All of you better get out of my way, or I’ll let the police deal with you. When that happens, you’ll be leaving this place with a pair of handcuffs in your hand!”

Jeremy’s imposing manner seemed to intimidate everyone there. He was the type that would look majestic even when he was not angry. The way he spoke was like the ancient Greek gods booming their authority down from the sky, inducing both awe and fear.

The hecklers instinctively backed away and opened up a path for him. Jeremy steadily walked over to Corinne, and his eyes blazed with anger when he saw the Coke dripping off her hair and clothes.

He had only gone out for a while and did not imagine

something like this would happen to her. Once again, he failed to protect her. How would he ever forgive himself?

Jeremy calmly picked up Corinne's half-

full Coke from the table and threw it on the group of people in a sweeping motion. The Coke splashed out, hitting everyone right in the face. No one was spared at all.

Then, Jeremy flung the cup

away. He turned to Corinne, held her face in both of his hands, and gently wiped away the sticky Coke liquid left on her face.

"You're safe now. Let's go home," he said as he tucked her wet hair behind her ear.

Corinne nodded silently. She then got up and followed Jeremy out of the messy fast-food restaurant. She did not want to

waste her breath arguing with the

group of people who did not know the truth. After all, they were as much of a victim since they were fooled by the mastermind who edited and uploaded the video.

Everyone watched as Jeremy led Corinne out of the fast-

food restaurant. They hated themselves for letting her go like

that, but at the same time, no one dared to step forward to stop him.

It was true they were intimidated by Jeremy who appeared out of nowhere, but they could not quite put their finger on why they were scared of him. If only they knew who he really was.

"Ahem! That guy must be the girl's accomplice. Why should we be scared of him?"

"Yeah! We shouldn't fear him. We should expose him as well."

Someone took the lead and fired everyone up to chase after Jeremy and Corinne so that they could take pictures of them.

## Chapter 330

As soon as she stepped out of the fast food restaurant, Corinne heard a stampede coming from behind her. She turned to look back and saw the same group of people chasing after her. Moreover, some reporters had received a tip—off of her whereabouts and were rushing over to where she was with their cameras held up high.

Both Jeremy and Corinne thought it would be best if they forgo the taxi because taxi drivers were known to be sensitive to the subject of scammers who cheat people out of their

money by pretending to get into an accident with their cars. It would be disastrous for Jeremy and Corinne if their taxi driver joined the angry mob.

“Run, Mister!” Corinne grabbed Jeremy’s hand, and the two of them started running away together. She was not afraid of the angry mob, but she found them bothersome and difficult since she could not do anything about them.

Besides, there was Jeremy’s status to think about. The

livelihood of the entire Holden Group might be affected should he receive a hit to his reputation. Corinne definitely did not want to implicate him in a matter as trivial as this.

The two of them ran into the nearby alley with the angry mob and the reporters still chasing after them. At the most critical moment, Jeremy dragged Corinne to hide behind a pile of junk, and the two of them stayed there until there were no signs of the angry mob or the reporters.

Corinne breathed a sigh of relief. She was panting slightly with the physical exertion.

## Chapter 330

Jeremy looked down at her and asked, “Why did we have to run away? You shouldn’t run after eating. What if you get a tummy ache?”

Corinne blinked at him. “Well, are you suggesting we fight them instead of running away?” she asked helplessly.

Jeremy poked her cheeks which were flushed red from all the running she did.

“It’s not as if you’ll be doing all the fighting. In fact, you just have to watch from the sideline.”

Corinne frowned. “Mister, I don’t want you to...”

However, before she finished speaking, she heard someone shouting excitedly, “I found them! They’re over there.”

“Hurry up! Don’t let them get away!”

“Stop! Don’t run!”

Corinne knew they were in deep trouble. “Oh no, they found us! Run, Mister! I’ll take care of them.”

‘What?’ Jeremy was about to grab her hand, but he stopped and frowned when he heard what she said.

“I’m not running away without you!”

Corinne could not run anymore. It was just as Jeremy said — she should not have run after eating, and she was feeling a little pain in her stomach.

“No! I’ll stay here and lead them away from you. What are you still standing there for? Run!”

Jeremy’s eyes darkened. He was not happy with Corinne’s plan

24

even though he understood she meant well.

'Who does she take me for? Does she really think I'll leave her alone to face those people?' thought Jeremy.

Corinne started pushing Jeremy away, but no matter how hard she pushed, he just would not budge.

At that very moment, Tommy drove to this alley. He stepped on the brake sharply, turned the car around, and deftly lowered the car window. "Sir, this way! Quick. Get in the car with Ma'am!"

Jeremy grabbed Corinne's hand and the two of them quickly walked to the car. Once they were inside, Tommy spared no hesitation in flooring the gas pedal and drove them to hell

out of there.

The angry mob ran over, only to see the top-of-the-line

Mercedes—

Benz SLR McLaren driving away. This only served to make them angrier than ever.

"The car that the scammer girl got on just now is the limited edition Mercedes—Benz, right?"

"She must've used all the money she cheated out of people to buy that car. That boy toy of hers must be in for the money as well. D\*mn it, this world has gone crazy!"

"Yeah, it's so not fair. That scammer girl is living the high life while we good citizens are stuck living in the rat race."

"Let's all post the pictures we have on the Internet to expose them!"

"Yeah! We should dox that boy toy of hers too so that both of them get their punishment. We have the masses on our side.

Down with the scammers!"

Chapter 331

“Yeah! I agree with you! And I support that idea!”

“I managed to get a very clear picture earlier, so I’m going to post it online!”

“I’ll do the same

too! If all of us work together, I’m confident that the scammer lady won’t be able to get a way with it!”

The Mercedes–Benz slowly began to drive at a more stable speed.

Corinne sat in the car, rested for a moment, and felt much more relieved. Her stomach was not as uncomfortable as before, so she stretched out her hand and said,

“Give me the phone, Mister!”

Jeremy had

a sullen expression as he took out his cell phone to hand it over. Corinne was just about to take it from him when Jeremy raised his hand

all of a sudden to prevent her from reaching it. He then asked coldly, “Before I give it to you, I want to know why you told me to go without you.”

Corinne frowned. “Because... Because I’m worried those people might take pictures of you!”

Jeremy’s eyes were

sullen. She did not regard him as someone close to her, and she even seemed to look down on him.

Corinne could easily tell he was unhappy, so after some thought, an idea popped up in her mind as she said, “Didn’t you mention before that you can’t let outsiders find out your weakness due to your unique status? I’m worried that those

**2/3**

people might take pictures of us and decide to kidnap **us** one day. I’m thinking about my future, you know!”

Jeremy froze slightly. The gloom in his eyes dissipated to give way to some warmth. Her roundabout way of coaxing him succeeded, and she seemed aware that she was his weakness. He snorted coldly and patted her on the head. "At least you know how to protect yourself."

Corinne pursed her lips, stretched out her hand, and demanded, "Give me the phone."

The man ceded to her request.

Corinne took the phone and immediately checked the day's news. Nothing unusual turned up in the trending searches, and similar topics have been suppressed too, so it was likely that Jeremy intervened and ordered someone to remove everything. However, the video was already circulated, and it would be difficult to prevent them from spreading it via private chats. She estimated that a large chunk of people who had access to the Internet would have seen the video.

She then tried finding out where the news originated.

As it turned out, it was the influencer Xena who made a post distorting the facts and complaining about what happened that day, saying that she had been cheated of more than 150,000 dollars, forcing her to have to sell her house and her car. She even said that her mother had fallen sick because of that incident, and she felt as if life was hopeless.

Spreading rumors was easy, but refuting those rumors was an uphill task. The video had been shortened to highlight certain moments, and social media users took on a surprisingly unanimous stance in believing Xena's nonsense.

Chapter 331

3/3

The comment section was filled with people cursing **her** to a terrible death for being a scammer.



Corinne was unsure if someone had put some voodoo spell on her, but her stomach began to hurt again, and she winced as she instinctively covered her stomach.

Jeremy was sharp enough to sense that something was wrong, and he narrowed his eyes while asking in a deep voice,

What's wrong?"

Corinne shook her head slightly. "Nothing. My stomach just feels a little uncomfortable."

"Who told you to run around earlier? Come closer," the man said in a soft and slightly angry tone. He then stretched out his hand, carried her, and placed her down on his lap. Then, the man covered her abdomen with his warm palms and rubbed her stomach gently.

Although his warm palm was effective in soothing her pain, she still felt awkward as she said, "Don't do this, Mister..."

The man raised his eyebrows. "What's wrong? Where else haven't I touched you?"

Corinne blushed with embarrassment, turned her head to look at Tommy in the driver's seat, and glared back at Jeremy. Mister! Don't you have any sense of shame?"

## Chapter 332

Tommy consciously raised the partition window to separate the front seats from the rear seats. Out of sight, out of mind, as they said.

He did not want to be glared at by Jeremy's sharp gaze.

Jeremy rubbed Corinne's stomach for some time and stopped when she saw that her complexion had improved. He then took out a wet towel, wiped her sticky coke-splashed face, and felt heartbroken yet angry at her. In his annoyance, he lectured, "Weren't you always feisty when you're with me? Why did you just let them splash the drink all over you instead of biting them back?"

Corinne rolled her eyes at him and said arrogantly, "I'm not a dog, Mister. Are you going to bite a dog if it bites you? We need to deal with a dog using human methods, not by stooping down to the level of a dog to bite them back. I

don't intend to bear a grudge against them either, because they're all idiots with a herd mentality who have been blinded by the fallacies being perpetuated online. If anything, I should be directing my grudge to whoever it was that had ulterior motives and instigated this from behind the scenes."

Jeremy patted her head and said, "Leave this matter to me. You should stay at home and rest for a couple of days. Wait until this fracas dies down before leaving the house."

Corinne was a little upset. "Why should I hide at home when I didn't do anything wrong?"

Jeremy coaxed her, "Then we won't hide, but you have to get up early and follow me to **the** company."

Corinne was startled. 'He wants me to come with him **to the** company? Doesn't that mean he's making it official?'

She thought for a while, then shook her head. "No. You need to work, and I have no reason to be there. **It's** going to be boring."

The man lowered his eyebrows and spoke to her in a very serious manner, "Cyberbullying is no laughing matter in today's society. Be a good girl and save me some worry, will you?"

Corinne's eyes flickered. 'So that's how it feels like to be tightly cared for by someone.'

"Ahem! You don't need to worry. I know what I'm doing, and I won't let anyone bully me."

TI

Though Jeremy could not persuade her, he was not too keen on curbing her freedom by force either. She had agreed to try to get along with him, and he would accord her equal respect so she could accept him from the bottom of her heart.

It was better than blindly forcing her to listen to him.

Moreover, he finally understood her at last. Dealing with her was as tricky as trying to capture a songbird: the more anxious he was to control her, the quicker she would try to evade him. In that aspect, she was remarkably different from other women.

The man could only compromise and pinch her pink face helplessly. “Fine. You’re pretty amazing, you know. Feisty with me, but ever the kind soul when facing outsiders.”

Corinne frowned. ‘Is he complaining that I’m treating him badly?’

In the past, she only viewed their relationship as that of a cooperation, and she generally tried her best to avoid him when there was no need for her to put on an act. Though they had just agreed to try and get along with each other earlier, she was still not ready yet. Furthermore, she was already **20** years old, but she somehow felt that he was treating her like a child who could not take care of herself!

T

That evening, in an old dilapidated residential area far beyond the expressway of New Capital City, the wife of Chris—the criminal suspect who almost assaulted Anya—had just returned home from the police station with her child. Both mother and son were crying as they went home.

After learning that his father was a bad guy and was arrested by the police, Chris’s son Kenny lost trust in his father, and his emotions crumbled even more. After arriving home, Chris’s wife finally calmed down the boy’s emotions and put the child to sleep.

Not long later, the doorbell of her home rang suddenly.

She covered the child with a blanket, got up, and got out of bed to open the door. Outside the door stood a woman wearing a cap, black sunglasses, and a large mask. She was carrying a black suitcase in her hand.

Chris's wife was a little nervous and wary. "Hello there. Are you looking for someone?"

The woman raised her hand to push the door and walked right into the house before taking off her sunglasses and mask.

### Chapter 333

That was when Chris' wife recognized her as Anya. "It's you, Miss Anya!"

She had met Miss Anya at the police station that day, and she had a very strong impression of Anya after her husband spoke about Anya to her.

Chris's wife was very polite. "Please sit down, ma'am. I'll get you a glass of water!"

Anya looked at the simple sofa in this puny house and had a look of disgust in her eye. She smiled contemptuously and said, "I won't bother. I'll be leaving soon anyway."

Her arrogance left Chris' wife feeling a little awkward and unsure of what to do.

Anya went straight to business and opened the black suitcase in her hand. She then put it on the table and cut to the chase, saying, "Tell your man to keep his lips sealed, and I guarantee that he'll be released soon. Once that's done, you and your

family will move out of the city. This money is more than enough for your family of three to live worry-free for the rest of your lives."

Chris' wife's eyes widened when she saw the money. "Don't worry, Miss Anya. My husband secretly told me everything when I visited him at the station today, and we understand the rules very clearly!"

"Glad to hear that," Anya sneered in disdain, left the suitcase behind, and turned around to leave.

## Chapter 333

2/4

After she walked out and returned to her car, she sprayed herself with disinfectant. The slum—like neighborhood was such a filthy mess that she felt sick with every step she took. Had she not needed to deliver the hush money, she would not have stooped so low as to visit a place far outside the city where poor people lived!

Since there were transaction records with every bank transfer, she was worried that someone might trace it to her in the future. Everything that happened was her design, and Rosie simply became her scapegoat without knowing it.

It all started when she rushed back to the country to give Jeremy a surprise at Lunar Century Manor. However, Jeremy left her behind and ran to look for Corinne. She then chased after him, but rather than finding him, she happened to run into Corinne alone on the shore of Yonder River.

She heard about Corinne's marriage to the Holdens when she was abroad and felt a sense of crisis brewing in her heart. As a result, she came up with a plan to use the man who distributed leaflets to set Corinne up.

To her surprise, Corinne was able to ruin that plan.

Anya, however, was a woman so meticulous that she came prepared for any eventualities. She had given Chris many hypothetical scenarios and showed her Rosie's photo.

She instructed Chris to testify on the spot that Rosie was the instigator if either the original plan failed or something untoward happened. Doing so would not affect the benefits he would get in the end. If he did not do as told, he would get

## Chapter 333

nothing, and his family would be caught in the crossfire as well.

It was very unfortunate that Rosie—her best friend who was always loyal to her—had to be sacrificed. With Rosie's removal from the picture, there was one less person for Anya to manipulate.

At that time, Anya's cell phone rang suddenly, and she saw that it was from her brother Lucas.

Anya answered the phone meekly, "Lucas?"

Lucas' stern, concerned voice was heard saying, "Dinner's ready, Anya. Grand and Grandma are here too, and Mom and Dad are waiting for you so we can all have a reunion dinner together. Where did you go this time?"

"I just came back to the country, and a couple of friends that I haven't seen for a long time insisted on asking me out for a meal. I'd feel bad to refuse them...which is why I accepted their invitation.

"Don't worry, Lucas, they're all girls, so they won't bully me!

"... Yes, Lucas. I'll be home soon."

Anya then tossed the phone coldly to the front passenger seat after hanging up. Then, she took out a cigarette case, skillfully lit a cigarette, and expertly struck a posture as she began smoking. It was completely different from her usual docile demeanor.

She looked at the time and had a confident grin on the corner of her lips. By her estimation, Corinne would have gotten a bad name on the Internet.

It did not **matter** that Corinne had foiled her earlier plan, as she still had many other ways of dealing with Corinne.

On that occasion, success would be hers simply by making sure that Corinne's reputation was ruined. Even if Jeremy had feelings for Corinne, the Holdens' elders would never want someone with questionable character and a myriad of scandals to be his wife. Corinne's days at the Holdens were numbered!

'How dare a village girl rob me of my man? She doesn't deserve him!'

## Chapter 334

Anya acquired Xena's data from her brother and secretly made a copy to her cell phone. She then edited the video, blurred her grandfather's face, and used special means to hack Xena's

account so she could accuse Corinne of those 'evil deeds' on the Internet. It led to an uproar.

The real Xena then ran back to her hometown and was afraid to go online anymore after being scared by her brother.

Her brother had always indulged her transgressions, and anyone who offended their family would not be let off so easily, regardless of their status or background. Meanwhile, he had always been indifferent to outsiders, and even if he saw that the scandal about Corinne was untrue, he would not interfere in things that did not concern him.

As for her grandfather, he was a famous scientist who spent his days researching things in a laboratory. He did not care about stuff on the Internet. He had been injured by some harmful gas due to an experiment a while ago, and he almost certainly would not find out about what she did because he was still in the process of recuperating.

However, Anya felt that she had not achieved the desired effect. With the trending search removed and the intensity of the issue dying down, she immediately deduced that Jeremy intervened to help Corinne. Upon realizing that, she became even more jealous, wondering why Corinne deserved to receive all that help from Jeremy.

Anya then tried to come up with another plan and thought of something else. She picked up her cell phone, logged into one

## Chapter 334

of her fake accounts, and fabricated a comment that Corinne was a debauched woman.

[I know that girl! She used to be my classmate, and she had an attitude problem when she was still in school. She bullied her classmates, demanded money in exchange for not bullying them, and had abortions after sleeping with people outside of the school. Rather than go home every night, she slept with different men at hotels! I didn't expect her to make a living trying to extort money. I feel humiliated to have a classmate like her!]

After she posted that comment, some social media users began to forward the post and reply to it.

[That girl used to be a bully! She may look small and dainty but she does all sorts of terrible stuff and even goes around extorting her classmates!]

[Extorters should suffer and die!]

[Her life is such a mess, and she even aborted the pregnancies she had with people outside the school! She's the worst of the worst, and she ought to have been punished long ago!]

[Sleeping with a different man every day? Ugh. That's disgusting...]

The social media users showed no inclination to pursue the truth of the matter and simply wanted to jump on the bandwagon to vent their anger. The fake account's post then immediately became viral, and the number of reposts increased exponentially.

Anya looked at all those vicious comments about Corinne on the web and curled her beautiful lips in satisfaction. Then, she

Chapter 334

searched her contacts for Jeremy's younger sister, Francine, and dialed the number with a purpose.



The phone rang for a while before it was answered, and

Francine's voice sounded like she had been roused up from her sleep. "Hello? Who is it?"

Francine was abroad at that moment, and the time on her end was four in the morning.

Anya knew about the time difference, but she still insisted on making that call.

"I'm sorry, Francine. Did I disturb your sleep?"

Francine immediately recognized Anya's voice. She was always fond of Anya, so her tone instantly became warm and buoyant. "Anya! It's you!

I heard you returned to the country, but sadly, my grandma brought me abroad to accompany my grandpa as he's recuperating. I'm sorry I can't hang out with you!"

Anya smiled softly. "It's okay. We can always hang out when you come back!"

## Chapter 335

Francine replied, "Sure! By the way, why did you call me at this time though, Anya? Is something the matter?"

Anya feigned hesitation. "Uh... Nothing! I bought you a gift when I came back, but it was only after I returned that I realized you weren't in town. I wanted to get your address so I can send it to you."

Francine felt very touched when she heard that. "That's so thoughtful of you, Anya! You even remembered me and bought me a gift! Sigh, if only you were my sister-in-law! I wouldn't have been locked up in the detention center for ten days, and Grandma wouldn't discipline me by sending me abroad. I don't even have any personal freedom right now!"

Anya acted surprised as she asked, "What happened, Francine? How did you end up in a detention center all of a sudden?"

Francine was filled with resentment when she recalled that incident. "This was all Corinne's fault! Ugh, why did my brother have to marry a country girl like her? She's a schemer, a hypocrite, and the worst person to ever exist in the world!"

Anya sighed sympathetically. "Sigh! Speaking of which, Rosie was detained at the police station today! I was so distressed because I couldn't bail her out, so I wanted to talk to you and get it off my chest..."

Francine was shocked. "What? Rosie is locked up too? What's going on?"

Anya deliberately avoided the question at first and hesitated to say anything, but she then pretended as if she could not stand

Chapter 335

23

Francine's constant questioning and had no choice but to recount the series of events that happened in the past few days since her return to the country. To that end, she chose to emphasize only those parts of the story that would elicit pity for her.

Francine was filled with righteous indignation after hearing what Anya said. "Seriously? Corinne again? I, too, believe that she framed Rosie! I can't believe my brother married someone so evil!"

Having achieved her desired effect, Anya then asked '

cautiously', "By the way, Anya, you haven't gone online and seen any news from back home, right?"

Francine answered, "No. I've been browsing stuff from the country I'm in these past couple of days. Did anything happen back home?"

Anya then instructed, "You can't let Grandpa and Grandma see any news from back home. I'm worried that they might get angry and fall sick..."

“Why would they? Did something happen back home? Is it related to our family?”

“You should avoid reading it, too. Listen to me, okay? Don’t go searching for the news!”

Francine could not stand

Anya’s cryptic advice, and she immediately switched on her tablet to read the news. As soon as she found out what happened, her anger shot through the roof and she cursed, “How shameless can Corinne be?! I can’t believe she tried to stage an accident and extort money! Our family’s reputation will be ruined if she’s revealed to be Jeremy’s wife! This is unacceptable! I’m going to tell my

Chapter 335

3/3

grandparents right now so they’ll tell Jeremy to divorce her!”

Anya persuaded kindly, “No, Francine. Don’t. It won’t do your grandparents any good now, and-”

Francine had already gotten up and changed into a fresh set of clothes. “Don’t worry about this! Our family will never let that woman humiliate our prestige!” She hung up in a hurry as soon as she finished speaking.

Once

Anya heard the dial tone from the other end, she laughed and thought to herself, ‘Things are going really well!’

Back at the Holdens’ estate, Corinne went straight up because she could not wait any longer to wash off the coke that had dried off and turned sticky on her body.

Jeremy followed her upstairs and entered the room, but Corinne’s two small hands pushed the door mercilessly to shut him out.

He raised his

big hand and pushed the door to prevent her from closing it, and as he did so, he raised

his eyebrows and looked unhappily at her. "Didn't you say you wanted to learn to get along with me? Why aren't you letting me in?"

## Chapter 336

Corinne blinked and said, "You brought me to the Holdens and forced me to cooperate with you, so I did. I

tried to follow your arrangements as best as I could, avoid making you unhappy, and expected nothing from you. But things have since

changed, and now that we've agreed to try and get along with each other, you should learn to respect my wishes too. Plenty of things have happened over the past few days, and I'm exhausted. I want to have some peace and quiet, so could you please let me stay in this room by myself? If you want to make it clear that this is your room, I can go to the guest room or I can get out of here and go back to my own home."

Jeremy narrowed his eyes because her words left little room for him to maneuver. 'How shrewd!'

"This isn't an issue of what's yours or mine. When have I never let you do what you want? Hmm? If you want this room for yourself, go ahead and have it. I'll go to the study."

"Thanks, Mister!" Corinne grinned, raised her chin, and had a crafty look as she pointed to his big palm that was still

pushing against the door. Her meaning was clear. "Could you remove your hand?"

Although Jeremy did not want to leave her alone, he could not afford to provoke her and eventually withdrew his hand from the door. As soon as his hand was withdrawn, Corinne closed

the door in his face and went to the bathroom to take a shower and change into some fresh clothes.

The blue veins on Jeremy's forehead twitched, and he was unhappy after having the door shut in his face. It was the first

## Chapter 336

time in his life that someone dared to treat him like that, but there was nothing he could do about it because he had taken a liking to her.

Jeremy massaged the area between his eyes, turned around, and saw his subordinate Tommy waiting not far away. Tommy probably witnessed what happened, which was why he was hesitant to say anything and merely looked nervously at Jeremy.

Frustrated, Jeremy lit a cigarette and asked, "What is it?"

Tommy finally dared to step forward and say to him, "Sir, the source of the video has been traced, but the IP address is fake and the real address was encrypted by the other party. Our people are still in the process of cracking the encryption. If everything meets expectations, this incident was probably stirred up by that influencer, and she also happened to take the chance to get revenge on our ma'am."

Jeremy grunted coldly and flicked away the ash from the tip of his cigarette. "Send someone to find that influencer as soon as possible, and tell those who are in charge of dealing with this that they'll no longer handle the matter. I'll take over."

Tommy was startled, and he could not help but feel a little surprised to hear that Jeremy was going to do it himself. Corinne appeared to have more standing in Jeremy's heart than Anya!

"Understood." Tommy nodded and immediately went to do as he was told.

After Tommy left, Jeremy breathed out a puff of smoke, tilted his head, and stared at the closed bedroom door before walking helplessly to the study.

Corinne came out of the shower, changed into some clean and comfortable home clothes, and felt so much more refreshed

than before. She then sat at the desk and turned on the computer. As soon as she logged into her chap app, there were notifications from Xante and Aaron.

[Aaron: Boss, where are you?]

Corinne tapped the keyboard and replied, [At the Holdens.]

[Xante: We've been trying our best to deal with this brouhaha online, boss, but that Jeremy guy has taken the lead in suppressing the trending search.]

Corinne texted, [I'm aware.]

[Aaron: There must've been a mastermind behind this incident; it couldn't have gotten this serious in just half a day! Although the trending searches have already been suppressed, the trend of public opinion is still much against you! What should we do next?]

Corinne said, [Don't panic. I can handle the situation online by myself. Aaron, I need you to find out who was the person who made the public confession using the LED screen at the Century Bank Tower that day. See if you can establish whether or not Anna, the person being confessed to, really exists. Make sure to check if anyone with the same name came back to the city in the past few days.]

[Aaron: Will do!]

[Xante: Are you saying that the confession wasn't Mister Jeremy's doing?]

## **Chapter 337**

**Corinne replied,** [No, it's not him.]

**[Xanten:** Interesting! That means someone deliberately created a smokescreen that would lead anyone who saw that scene to misunderstand! I'm 90% positive that Anya did it .]

Corinne had similar suspicions, too. It was not that she doubted Jeremy's explanation or questioned his ability to investigate such a trivial matter, but she simply could not believe that a situation that had such a small probability of happening could happen so coincidentally.

Anya somehow came back on the day that Jeremy arranged a sea of tulips, and on her return, someone publicly professed their love on a grand scale at the Century Bank Tower to another girl whose name also started with 'An'. More importantly, that costly profession of love did not include the other party's full name but only the first two characters.

Who would know which girl that confessor was referring to? It could be Anya, Anna, Annie, Annabelle, or anyone whose name started with those two letters. Besides, any woman whose name started with 'An' would probably not automatically assume that the confession was directed to her.

The fact that the person had chosen to confess their love publicly proved that he was someone who preferred to show affection on a grand scale. By that logic, it was a contradiction to their ostentatious character to omit using the person's name.

On the other hand, it was also normal for Jeremy to end the investigation after finding out that the person being confessed to on the LED screen was someone named Anna Fuller.

Anya was Jeremy's savior, so it was natural for him not to suspect her because of that. After all, it was unlikely for one to make negative speculations about the girl who sacrificed her life to save him.

Corinne was different. She was not friends with Anya, and she had grown to have a bad impression of Anya after getting to know the latter in the past few days. She even felt that Anya was a bit of a hypocrite despite the docile and often kind-hearted outlook that was portrayed.

Furthermore, the incidents that happened in recent days began ever since Anya's return and showed no

signs of stopping just yet. It was difficult for her not to feel that everything was connected to Anya. If that were true, the pure-looking and gentle girl would be an extremely sly person whom Corinne would have to be wary of in the future.

At that moment, the phone suddenly vibrated and brought Corinne back to her senses. She glanced at the caller ID and saw that the name was titled 'Grandpa'. She felt puzzled at first because she did not have a grandfather, but she soon realized that she was using Jeremy's cell phone, and the 'Grandpa' in question was Jeremy's grandfather.

**Corinne** felt a little conflicted. She could not answer that call because she never **met** the man, **and** he **probably** did not know who she was either. As a result, she picked up the phone and was about **to** bring it **to** Jeremy's study, but her finger swiped on the answer **icon** **by** accident.

The **call was** connected.

On the other end of the phone came an old man's angry, questioning voice.

"Jeremy you good-for-nothing! What sort of swine did you bring into our home? Aren't you all grown up now? Why would you be with a cheating, scandalous woman? I think you're just trying to anger me to death in my last days!"

Corinne's lips twitched. If her guess was right, the swine that the old man spoke of was none other than her.

## Chapter 338

The old man was a little puzzled when he did not get a response, so he asked, "Hello? Why is it so quiet on the other end? Can you hear me? Say something, Jeremy!"

Corinne was speechless. What am I supposed to say? Should I tell him that I'm the 'swine' that he spoke of and not his darling grandson?



Just as **Corinne** was hesitating over how she was supposed to respond to the old man, she suddenly heard an old lady's voice coming from the other end of the phone.

"Greg, you idiot! Who told you to call Jeremy? Can't you give it a rest? You've just taken your medicine! Give me the phone!"

Corinne then listened as a tussle ensued, and Pamela eventually snatched the phone. After taking the phone, Pamela asked. There's been lots of news about things back home What's going on?"

Pamela's question left Corinne with no choice but to sigh helplessly and explain everything, but before she had time to speak, she heard the old woman reprimanding sternly, "Did you forget what I told you before I left? I said to take good care of Corinne and be a little nicer to her, but you're doing the complete opposite! How could you let all those people slander her online? What kind of husband are you?"

Corinne was stunned, and even the explanation she so nearly gave was stuck in her throat. The old lady believed that she was slandered and sided with her unconditionally at Jeremy's expense Doesn't she doubt me at all?"

That being said, she could understand if the old lady doubted her because the two of them did not know each other for too long. However, Corinne was startled and humbled that the old lady would

side with her so clearly.

Corinne opened her mouth and said, "It's me, Grandma."

Pamela was surprised when she heard Corinne's voice. "Corinne? It's you! Wait a minute. Did you

answer the phone earlier?"

Yes, Grandma "

“So, you heard what that old man said too?”

“I did

Pamela then coaxed her a little awkwardly. “Don’t take his words to heart. He’s just an old fool, and he doesn’t know the truth of the situation!”

“Don’t worry, Grandma. I understand.”

Since Corinne never met the old man, she neither took offense nor took to heart his attitude toward her.

Pamela breathed a sigh of relief and said, “That’s good to hear. I knew you were an understanding person!”

**Corinne** then asked curiously, “Why don’t you doubt me at all when you saw the news about me?”

2/2

Pamela said straightforwardly, “Why should I? Does it make sense for me to believe that the Holdens granddaughter-in-

law is so short of money that she needs to fake an accident with a jalopy to extort money? I’m not that easily fooled, unlike a certain old man. The news is all fake!”

Corinne laughed. “Haha! You’re a wise woman indeed, Grandma!”

Pamela was happy to receive praise from her granddaughter-in-law. “That I am! But honestly, I do hope that you’re the kind of girl who likes money!”

Corinne did not quite understand what Pamela meant. “... Huh?”

Pamela then explained worriedly, “Because we’re rich, and Jeremy is even richer. If you like money, Jeremy is the right man for you! I’m worried that there’s nothing you like, and you’ll end up disliking Jeremy for being a cold, ignorant man...and then you’ll finally disli

ke our family too..." Corinne was amazed that Pamela knew her so well and believed in her character.

## **Chapter 339**

However, Pamela was wrong on one point—Corinne did love money, and very much so, though the only money she liked was that which was earned through her abilities, and not money obtained by opportunistic means such as marrying a man or pleasing him.

On the other end of the phone, Greg muttered angrily and said, "Come on! Is there any woman who doesn't like money? How can an old woman like you be so naive to believe that there are women who don't like money? That Corinne girl must've put a spell on you or something!"

Pamela kept quiet as if to take a deep breath. Her voice became a little sullen, and it sounded like she was trying to muster some strength. Even her tone sounded a little off-color. "Try to stay home these couple of days. If you need to go out, you must remember to keep safe at all times. Jeremy will probably be able to deal with this hubbub on the internet. I have something to take care of right now, so let's talk another time."

Corinne responded obediently. "Okay, Grandma. Talk to you soon."

Before she ended the call, she heard Pamela's roar from the other side. "D\*mn you, Greg! Who did you just call naive?"

The old man then yelled in pain. "Agh! Let go, Pamela! I'm a sick man!"

"Oh, so you're aware that you're sick? You seem a little too energetic today, you old geezer!"

The phone call ended there and the rest of the conversation was left unheard.

Corinne was amused that the old couple acted like children. Though they sounded like they were arguing, their relationship seemed really strong, and it was not often that one saw such a happy couple.

At that moment, a video call notification popped up from the messaging app on her computer and the chat box appeared too.

It turned out to be

Sherlyn, and Corinne narrowed her eyes as she looked at the screen. Ever since she found out that she was unrelated to the Carews, she never contacted them again. She felt that there was no reason to do so since there was no love lost between her and them. In addition, they also seemed to feel that her existence was superfluous.

Therefore, Sherlyn must have had a reason for calling her.

After thinking about whether or not to accept the call, Corinne decided to answer it. However, she did not turn on her camera. After all, she was at the Holdens, and there was luxury all around her. It would lead to yet another issue if Sherlyn were to see all of that.

Sherlyn's face soon appeared on the computer screen, and she pointed to the camera while turning her head to say to Marvin, "Dad, she answered the call!"

Marvin immediately leaned in front of the camera, glared at her, and asked in a loud voice, "Where the hell have you been these days, Corinne? You haven't come home once, and you never pick up our calls!"

In the past, Corinne would try to be respectful and polite to Marvin even though she did not feel

Chapter 339

particularly attached to him, since she believed him to be her biological father **at** the time. After finding out that she was completely unrelated to him by blood, she ditched whatever remaining **bit of** respect and politeness that she had toward him.

Corinne responded calmly, "Did you want something from me?"

Marvin scolded her. "What kind of attitude is that? You went into hiding after doing all sorts of shameful acts, and now, our family has lost our dignity and reputation! We're making

ng the headlines now, too! People have sent wreaths and blades to our home! Are you trying to shorten my life?” Corinne was stunned for a moment. Those social media users were pretty quick to find out where the Carews lived. It was clear that someone ‘in the know’ had fanned the flames on the internet

and leaked those rumors.

Perhaps it was only a matter of time before her marriage with Jeremy would be revealed.

## Chapter 340

Marvin then ordered angrily, “Come back here right now and get rid of all the wreaths in front of the house. Then you need to figure things out on your own and find a way to admit your mistakes to the media. Make sure you ask for everyone’s forgiveness! I don’t want our family to be dragged through the mud along with you!”

Corinne listened calmly and felt like laughing.

An old lady who had known her for less than a couple of months believed firmly in her innocence, going so far as to advise her not to go out in the coming days and be extra careful of her safety. On the other hand, her father wanted to thrust her into the public eye and let the netizens vent their anger so he could disassociate himself from her.

The difference was simply too huge.

Marvin had always treated her like that since she was a child. Whenever something bad happened, his first act would be to accuse her, reproach her, and scold her indiscriminately. He never cared to ask her for the truth of the matter, and he was never concerned as to whether someone had harmed her or accused her wrongly.

-Not once did he ever stop to care for her.

When she was young, she often wondered why her father was different from other people's fathers. She never felt any of that fatherly love that her classmates so often wrote about in their essays.

However, it would be wrong to say that Marvin was different from other people's fathers. Judging from the way he treated Sherlyn, he could be regarded as a father who loved his daughter. He would forgive whatever mistakes Sherlyn made, and he would be angry at her for only a short time. Once he forgave her, he would still love Sherlyn as much as he did before.

The same could not be said for Corinne.

At long last, she finally understood why Marvin treated her coldly—he always knew that Corinne was not his daughter, hence the complete lack of fatherly love toward her. The most she would get was a bit of his pity.

'Then again, if Marvin knew from the beginning that I'm not related to him by blood, and if he never wanted to adopt me in the first place, why did he bring me home from the hospital? Why would he take me in without intending to raise me properly and instead just abandon me in the countryside to be taken care of by other people?'

Those questions made Corinne feel puzzled.

Once the cyberbullying incident was behind her, she would find time to go back home and investigate Marvin's past.

When Corinne still did not answer her, Marvin lashed out furiously. "Have you gone deaf, Corinne? Didn't you hear what I said? Come back here and clean up this mess you made!"

Corinne came back to her senses and replied, "Yes, I heard you. But no, I won't be going back. I'm busy. I'll send someone over to deal with the wreaths, and I'll make sure that your family won't

receive such strange items again. If that's all, then I'm hanging up."

Marvin was stunned to hear her cold attitude, and he felt that it was a little different compared to before. He then remarked unhappily, "Why are you talking with me with that kind of attitude?"

Corinne answered lazily, "Oh? What's wrong with my attitude? Didn't I already promise you that I'll solve this matter that you complained about? Isn't that good enough for you?"

Marvin gritted his teeth angrily. "You've lost it, Corinne! You're becoming much ruder than before! You don't even call me 'Dad' when you talk to me! You're rebelling now!"

"Let me talk to her!" Sherlyn took the phone, raised her makeup-laden face, and stared disdainfully

at the camera.

"You're a bringer of bad luck, Corinne! Life has been the worst ever since you came into the city from the countryside! You ruined my career a while ago, and now, everyone's found out that the person who staged that accident is my sister! I'm being smeared, slandered, and cursed by everyone, and they're putting me on the same level as you! I'm so ashamed! The point is, you need to settle this for me right away and go back to your country home! We don't want you to stay in the city and bring bad luck to our family! Do I make myself clear?"

Corinne chuckled softly. "If I recall, you were the one who ruined your career. And who are you to tell me to go back to the countryside?"